

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides products and methods for regulating the degradation of collagen, including type II collagen. Also encompassed are variants, inhibitors, and mimetics of type II collagen peptide fragments and inhibitors of the proteases producing these peptide fragments that are capable of modifying the degradation of collagen whereby the pathological effects of increased collagen destruction are reduced. In addition, the present invention provides methods for treating disease states wherein the disease state results directly or indirectly from the degradation of one or more collagen species. Furthermore, the present invention encompasses the screening of these peptide fragments for diagnostic purposes.